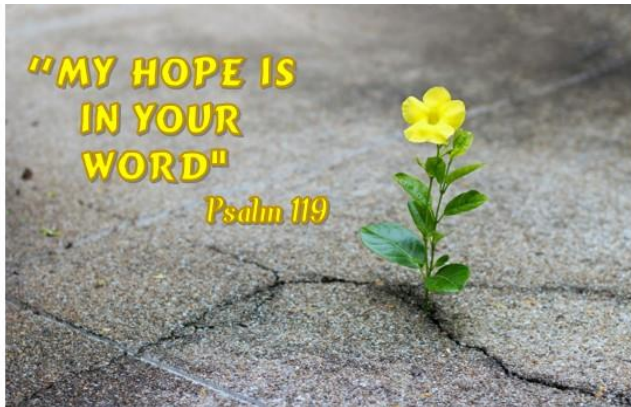


INFO SS.CC. SISTERS N°71 – MAY 22TH, 2020



Signs of Hope in difficult times

Dear Sisters,

We continue, together with the whole world, the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic and its consequences, in solidarity with so many people, suffering with family, friends, the sick, the unemployed, ... both known and unknown. Our missionary spirit moves us to collaborate as much as possible with the people that are close to us, and to present this difficult reality to the Lord daily in adoration.

This issue of INFO is dedicated to sharing what we are experiencing in each Territory during the pandemic. We will find testimonies of welcome to homeless families, of soup kitchens and food deliveries to the unemployed, of formation programmes to prevent contagion, of long periods of presence in the community sharing prayer and domestic chores... And we will also see how in all the sisters who speak to us of their experience, there is a good measure of hope.

These pages are full of confidence that the near future will be better. Reading what each one has written makes you want to repeat with John, who left his testimony in the Apocalypse, *"I saw a new heaven and a new earth"* (Rev 21:1). As if after so much suffering, desolation and torment for many, we dare to believe that hearts will be transformed. As if we dare to believe that life will not be the same as before, because this world experience has made us touch human vulnerability, and the need we have for others. Because seeing the Planet react, we dare to believe that the whole of Humanity will live a change in its relationship with the earth, with the animals, the forests, the water... Because we saw gestures of heroism in nurses and doctors, actions of help and protection among neighbours, invitations to prayer, calls to solidarity, ... We dare to believe that the world can be better after this painful time of the pandemic.

Many authors have written their reflections during this time, helping us to make sense of what is happening to us. This helps us not to fall into scepticism that leads us to become distant from the Lord, from concrete reality, as if He might not be present at this moment in history. It is precisely affliction that calls for redemption. We know that, since the Resurrection of Jesus, every death has a new life and every suffering, consolation... There is the root of our hope.

In the coming days, we are going to celebrate the Ascension of our Lord and then the Feast of Pentecost, important moments in our liturgical life, which help us to remember that Jesus of Nazareth

is the Christ, who is alive and who is Lord of History. It does us good to repeat those phrases that we have always known and that nourish our faith when we say them.

The virus respects no one? The problem is everyone's? The dead are of all ages, conditions, countries, ... it is true. However, this pandemic is highlighting the inequalities, and the serious social problems that exist in the world. And, as always, those most affected are the poor, with their different faces: migrants, undocumented immigrants, the elderly, those with casual jobs, ... The problem concerns everyone, but not all of us are affected in the same way.

The Liturgy tells us that *it was fitting that the Lord should leave so that his Spirit might come*, (Jn 16:7). And, since then, the Spirit of Jesus accompanies and inspires us, moves us to hope and impels us to collaborate with him in the task of founding a world without pandemics. No coronavirus, no hunger, no exclusion.

May the Holy Spirit fill our hearts.

Affectionately,